

THE PELARGONIUM CONGRESS.

This meeting was held on the 22nd of May, at South Kensington, was attended by many distinguished growers, and the prize essays by Mr. Grieve and Mr. Jonathan Smith were read. From the essay by Mr. Grieve, published in the *Gardeners' Chronicle*, on the history, future changes, points of merit, and cultivation of the ornamental-foliaged Pelargoniums (better known as Geraniums), we gather that up to the year 1855 no golden-margined Pelargoniums existed, except the well-known Golden Chain. This was crossed upon Cottage Maid, a heavily-zoned, green-leaved sort, producing Golden Tom Thumb and Golden Cerise Unique. These crossed upon Emperor of the French, a strong-growing zonal seedling, produced Golden Pheasant, and from the union of this with Emperor of the French sprang the celebrated and now well-known Mrs. Pollock and Sunset. The writer of the essay is of the opinion that the limits of beautiful variegation have not yet been reached, and that a field of operation is yet open in the crossing of the best variegated varieties with strong, vigorous, well habited green zonals, in which the zone is well defined.

In the course of the discussion which ensued, the opinion seemed to prevail that the employment of manure water in the cultivation of variegated Pelargoniums was to be avoided; that the plants thrive best if kept slowly moving at a temperature of 50° to 55°, until March, and the first or second week of March shifted into proper pots, making what is termed a large shift, using for potting the top spit of a turf pasture, and up from six to nine months, chopped roughly, and used in a coarse state.—*Globe*.

A FLORAL CURIOSITY.

Visitors to Rochester will do well to take the opportunity of seeing a Century Plant on the grounds of Messrs. Frost & Co., which is now growing up its flower stalk, that has already attained a height of over twelve feet. The growers have not yet expanded, but they may be expected to make their appearance in the course of the next month. This plant is the striped or variegated American Aloe or Century Plant, purchased in 1809 by Hon. John Greig, Esq., at Prince's Garden, Long Island, and becoming large and unwieldy, it was sent to Messrs. Frost & Co., with whom it has remained, in 1856. It is supposed to be now about seventy years old. It showed indications of flowering on the 25th of April, 1869, since which time its daily average growth has been about three inches. The flower stem measures four inches in diameter, and bears a great resemblance to a gigantic asparagus bud; but branches are thrown out at the top, upon which the flowers will be borne, which, taken singly, bear considerable resemblance to that of the lily.

FRUIT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN NEW YORK.

The above Association held its summer meeting in Rochester, June 23rd. There was a fine display of flowers and fruits on the occasion. Various topics of horticultural interest were discussed. Among others the following conclusions appear to have been reached:—

"That white hellebore is a very valuable and efficient destroyer of the worm of the Gooseberry Sawfly and several other insects; that Cresylic soap, dissolved in hot water at the rate of one pound of soap to ten gallons of water, and whale-oil soap in solution are valuable agents in lessening the ravages of slugs, thrips, and various leaf-eating insects; that common gypsum or plaster of Paris, sprinkled freely on young cabbage plants, radishes, melons, cucumbers, etc., will so protect them from the turnip-fly or flea-beetle, that these insects are unable to injure them. Some had found a dusting of coal ashes, and others of wood ashes, to be very beneficial in repelling or destroying insects."

Lists of the best flowering shrubs, the best ornamental hedge-plants, the six best climbing roses, and the two best hybrid perpetual roses, were voted on, and made out. Two new evergreens, Lawson's cypress, and *Libocedrus decurrens*, were favourably noticed by Mr. Barry, of the firm of Elwanzer and Barry.

TORONTO ELECTORAL DIVISION SOCIETY.

The Summer Exhibition of the above Society was held on the 8th and 9th instant, in the Horticultural Garden. We were unable to attend, but learn from the *Globe* that, although the products exhibited were first-rate, they were few in number, and the exhibitors formed but a small class in comparison with what might be expected in such a city the size of Toronto. The weather was unfavourable the first day, materially affecting the attendance, which was not so large as could have been wished even on the second day, when there was improvement in this respect. Toronto must go to school to some of our smaller towns. Guelph, for example, could teach the metropolis a thing or two about Horticultural Shows. Why should they not be invariably a success everywhere?

WEED EXTINCTION.

One of our exchanges observes, the horticultural text for July is "weeds." Not but that they are to be fought in other months, but in